

VIII. *Description of a new species of the lepidopterous genus Carama, together with a few notes on the genus.* By GEORGE T. BAKER, F.E.S.

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PLATE VI.

Carama Butleri, n. s. (Pl. VI., figs. 1, 2, & 3).

Alis anterioribus et posticis albis, thorace et capitis vertice cum anteriore parte pectoris et femoribus anticis nigricantibus.

Anterior and posterior wings white. In the male the costal border of the fore wings beneath is black, the vertex of head and collar white; front of pectus, palpi, and femora of anterior legs smoky black. In the female the black markings are replaced by a light tint of grey, and there is no trace beneath of the black costal margin. In one of my female specimens there is a dark mark on the costa just in front of the apex, but this does not appear in the others, neither is it visible in those in the Museum collection. The yellow bands on the upper surface of the abdomen are more marked in this species than in any other of the genus. Expanse, 38 mm.

All these specimens were sent me from Goya, Corrientes, South America, where it appears to be not uncommon.

Carama Butleri can be at once distinguished from any other of the genus by the vertex of the head and collar being white, whereas in all the rest either one or both are sulphur-yellow.

The whole of this group is a New World genus, all being found in South America. All are pure white, of a silky texture, the specific characters being mainly in the coloration of collar, head, pectus, and legs. The abdomen of the female is ringed above with yellow, but it is rarely much visible owing to the very long white hairs with which the body is clothed. Mr. Butler having monographed the genus (*vide* 'Cistula Entomologica,' vol. ii., pp. 203 and 204), it is unnecessary to give

detailed accounts of the species, though a few notes on each, with a short table of their points of difference, may not be without use, more especial reference being made to the plate; and with this object I have carefully examined the specimens in the Museum, and, with Mr. Butler's permission, made free use of his monograph.

Carama Walkeri, Butl. (Pl. VI., fig. 11).

This is the largest species of the genus; the vertex of head is yellow, collar white; palpi, front of pectus, and inside of anterior legs smoky brown.

This was the species under which Walker included all, except *nivea*, of the then known species of the genus; it may, however, at once be distinguished from the others by its much larger size.

Carama virgo, Butl. (Pl. VI., fig. 10).

Vertex of head and collar sulphur-yellow; palpi, front of pectus, and anterior legs blackish brown; tarsi of other legs black.

This is easily recognised from *Walkeri* by its smaller size.

Carama ovina, Sepp. (Pl. VI., fig. 9).

Vertex of head and collar pale sulphur-yellow; palpi, front of pectus, and inside of tibiae of fore legs pale brown; other legs all white.

Differs from *Walkeri* in its smaller size, and from *virgo* in the two pairs of posterior legs being all white.

Carama plumosa, Butl. (Pl. VI., figs. 4, 5, 6, & 7).

Collar only sulphur-yellow; palpi, front of pectus, and fore legs smoky brown; hind tarsi brownish; rest of legs white.

Differs from *Walkeri* in its smaller size, and from *virgo* and *ovina* in that the vertex of the head is white and not yellow.

This species presents a very curious case of sexual aberrant neuration. On reference to the plate it will be seen that the male (having the normal neuration of the genus) emits all its branches in regular order, the fourth and fifth subcostal branches being emitted from a foot-stalk, whereas the female emits the third and fourth

branches from a footstalk, and the fifth from the inferior margin of the main vein, between the second and third branches, like unto a misplaced radial. This, though not overlooked by Mr. Butler, was not mentioned in his monograph; it cannot, however, be regarded as anything else than an aberration, the species in every other character being identical with the rest of the genus.

Carama pura, Butl. (Pl. VI., fig. 8).

Vertex of head and collar sulphur-yellow; face, palpi, front of pectus, and front of anterior legs smoky brown; rest of legs white.

Nearest allied to *ovina*, but differs in that its face and front of anterior legs are smoky brown, which is not the case with that species.

Carama Butleri, n. s. (Pl. VI., figs. 1, 2, & 3).

♂. Vertex of head and collar white; palpi, front of pectus, and femora of anterior legs smoky black; costal margin beneath black.

♀. Similar to the male, but the black is replaced by a light shade of grey; and the costal margin beneath has no trace of black.

This may at once be separated from all its allied species by both the vertex of head and the collar being white.

Carama nivea, Cram.

There is no specimen of this in the Museum, but Cramer gives a description and a poor figure of it in his Pap. Exot., from which it appears very doubtful if it belongs to this genus. It is represented as larger than *Walkeri*, and has three reddish spots at the anal angle of the hind wing; these, however, may not improbably be stains, and is evidently a larger and altogether more robust insect.

The following table shortly sums up the main specific differences:—

Palpi and front of pectus smoky- brown.	{	Vertex of head and collar white.	}	<i>C. Butleri.</i>				
		Vertex of head white ; collar pale sulphur- yellow.	}	<i>C. plumosa.</i>				
		Vertex of head and collar pale sulphur-yellow.	{	Tarsi of four posterior legs black.	}	<i>C. virgo.</i>		
				Four pos- terior legs white.	{	Face and front of anterior legs smoky brown.	}	<i>C. pura.</i>
						Inside of tibiæ in anterior legs pale brown.	}	<i>C. ovina.</i>
Vertex of head yellow ; collar white.	}	<i>C. Walkeri.</i>						

EXPLANATION OF PLATE VI.

- FIG. 1. Imago of *Carama Butleri*.
 2. Front view of head, ♂, *C. Butleri*.
 3. " " " ♀, "
 4. " " " ♂, *C. plumosa*.
 5. " " " ♀, "
 6. Neuration, ♂, *C. plumosa* (typical).
 7. " ♀, " (aberrant).
 8. Front view of head, *C. pura*.
 9. " " " *C. ovina*.
 10. " " " *C. virgo*.
 11. " " " *C. Walkeri*.